Prevention of Food Adulteration (PFA) Rules, 1955, the names of ingredients used in the product shall be declared on the label in descending order of their composition by weight or volume as the case may be. Similar provisions have been prescribed by Codex Alimentarious Commission which is an international organization for standardization of food products. All the countries in the world follow the practice of declaration of the ingredients on the label.

Pesticides are not used as an ingredient in preparation of any food products. Pesticide residues comes in food through use of pesticides upon food crops or during storage of food grains. As stated above, there is no practice in any country or any provisions under CODEX to display the extent of pesticides on the label of food items. There is, therefore, no proposal under consideration for displaying limit of pesticides on the label of food items under PFA Rules, 1955.

In order that the contaminants in food products do not exceed the safe limits, the maximum tolerance limits for pesticide residues in food products have been prescribed under prevention of Food Adulteration (PFA) Rules, 1955. Any violation of the limits prescribed is punishable under law.

Studies have been conducted by Ministry of Health and Family Welfare during the years 1988-89, 1993-94 and 2000-01. All these studies reveal that the pesticide residues detected in various foods are within the tolerance limits prescribed under the PFA Rules, 1955, except in some cases where the residues exceeded the prescribed limits.

Review of anti-poaching measures

*289. SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY:
SHRI HARISH RAWAT:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have conducted any comprehensive review of the performance, particularly the anti-poaching measures, in all the Reserves in the country;

(b) if not, the reason therefor and whether Government would conduct such a review;

(c) if so, the details of the status of anti-poaching measures in these reserves;

(d) what additional measures are being taken to strengthen anti-poaching measures;

(e) whether Government are considering setting up an expert group to monitor the reserves; and

(f) if so, the details of its mandate?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) Yes, Sir. Independent monitoring of tiger reserves have been done by a panel of experts using 45 criteria, which *inter-alia,* includes anti poaching measures as well.

(b) Question does not arise.

(c) The overall monitoring and evaluation scores for tiger reserves based on 45 criteria which, *inter-alia,* includes eleven exclusive criteria for protection (staff in position, average age of staff, vehicle availability, strike force availability, poaching pressure, presence of patrolling camps, daily monitoring through camps and recording, networking strategy, daily patrolling, court case monitoring and registration of arms) are as below:

Categories	Very Good	Good	Satisfactory	Poor
Number of tiger reserves	9	11	6	2

(d) Additional measures taken by the Government of India to strengthen anti-poaching measures are at Statement *(See* below*).*

(e) and (f) As indicated at (a), an expert group already exists for monitoring tiger reserves using 45 criteria, based on the format of the World Commission of Protected Areas (IUCN).

Statement

Anti poaching measures to protect tigers and other wild animals

The following measures have been taken at the Government of India level for strengthening anti-poaching measures to protect tigers and other wild animals:

(i) During the current financial year, an amount of Rs. 75.74 lakhs

has been provided to 11 Tiger Reserves, based on their proposals, for monsoon patrolling.

(ii) A Task Force was constituted to review the management of Tiger Reserves in the country, which has submitted its recommendations.

(iii) Legal protection has been provided to wild animals including tiger against hunting and commercial exploitation under the provisions of the wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.

(iv) Financial and technical help is being extended to the States under Centrally Sponsored Schemes for enhancing the capacity and infrastructure to provide effective protection to wild animals.

(v) The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has been empowered under the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 to apprehend and prosecute wildlife offenders.

(vi) The Ministry of Home Affairs has addressed all the State Governments to lend a helping hand to the field formations to curb poaching and illegal trade in wildlife.

(vii) A National Wildlife Action Plan (2002-2016) has been launched with several action points and priority projects for conservation and protection of wildlife in the country.

(viii) A 'tiger habitat and population evaluation system' has been developed in the GIS domain, with inputs from the scientists of WII, involving the State officials and field staff. Based on this, the Project Tiger Directorate of the Ministry has refined the tiger estimation/monitoring procedure with a peer review mechanism comprising of independent experts, both national and international (IUCN) for overseeing the primary data collection.

(ix) Tiger presence and its breeding status have been mapped for the entire country at taluk level amplification in the GIS domain for an assessment of habitat fragmentation.

(x) A proposal for creating a Wildlife Crime Control Bureau has been made.